

# Keeping You Posted



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## Libbey Named UCBWM Chief Exec Guidelines Allow Selective South Africa Divestment

The election of a new executive vice president, a campaign to increase the number of missionaries and guidelines for shareholding in companies with investments in South Africa highlighted the annual meeting of UC Board for World Ministries in Chicago in Nov.

Elected to the top position by the 225 corporate members was Scott S. Libbey, 55, Iowa Conference minister. He succeeds David M. Stowe, who steps down after 14 years in the position. Mr. Libbey starts work in Feb. but will be formally installed during General Synod 15 in June.

With the offering from the opening worship service, the World Board inaugurated the 175 Fund to raise \$175,000 to send out additional missionaries by 1987, the 175th anniversary of the sailing of the first UCBWM personnel to India.

### Selective Divestment Policy Adopted

In an action that could have major financial implications for UCBWM, directors approved new policy guidelines regarding investments in companies operating in South Africa. The document creates a selective and phased divestment policy which could result in the disposal of millions of dollars worth of investments in blue chip companies which do not respond to efforts to change their policies in South Africa. Current market value of UCBWM's investment portfolio is approximately \$40 million.

The South Africa divestment guidelines call for monitoring corporate policy in that country in seven areas. Companies participating in two or more of the following practices will be considered to support the apartheid system:

\*Sales to the military or police;

\*Refusal to accept conditions of investment articulated by Bishop Desmond Tutu;

\*Expansion of capital investment or development of new product lines;

\*Sale of products said to maintain the system;

\*Bank loans to the Government and its agen-

cies or to private agencies which perpetuate apartheid;

\*Non-signature of the employment guidelines known as the Sullivan Principles, or

\*Annual sales of over \$100 million, assets of more than \$50 million or more than 1,000 employees in South Africa.

According to UCBWM world issues secretary Audrey C. Smock, the churches will analyze the performance of all 350 corporations with investments in South Africa and will annually select 10 of the worst offenders for an intensive one-year review. A concentrated effort will then be made to approach each management to change its policies. If there is no likelihood of significant change, final action will be for UCBWM to divest its holdings in the particular corporation.

The vote is the result of action taken by General Synod 14 recommending that church investors consider divestment if companies

*continued on page 8, column 3*

## EC Reaffirms UCC Priorities' Funding

A vote that UCC bodies continue to fund their work around priorities from their own budgets was taken at the recent UCC Executive Council meeting.

Based on information supplied by conferences and instrumentalities to the EC Finance and Budget and Planning and Correlation Committees, the vote also affirms that the Neighbors in Need and Family Thank Offerings still "may be used to fund special projects related to the priority areas."

Conferences and instrumentalities reported total spending of \$5,965,286 for work on UCC priorities from July 1981 through 1985, reports Robert P. Noble, assistant to UCC President Avery D. Post.

Included in this amount is \$970,628 allotted by 18 conferences that have reported so far and \$2,958,058 allocated by UC Board for Homeland Ministries, UC Board for World Ministries, Office of Communication and Of-

*continued on page 2, column 2*

## UCBHM Plans Stepup In College Relations

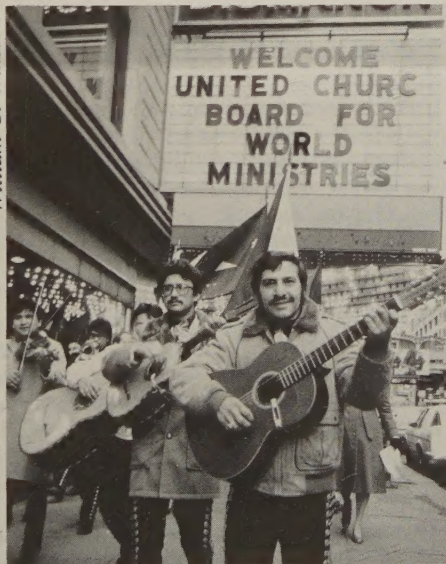
In seeking closer relationships with its related colleges, the UCC should form a network of church people to influence public policy on higher education and should push for more loans and scholarships for UCC students.

Those are among the goals and strategies for the UCC's educational mission recommended by a blue ribbon committee and gaining preliminary approval recently from the division of higher education and American Missionary Association of UC Board for Homeland Ministries.

It's too early to tell just which goals and strategies will be implemented first, says Joseph T. McMillan, Jr., the division's secretary for college relationships. Among the many suggestions raised in the committee's 10-page report, the public policy network and a revolving loan program for students are two of the ideas that may receive attention soon, Mr. McMillan notes.

*continued on page 4, column 1*

William C. Winslow



*A marachi band sets the tempo for the parade of flags at the opening session of UCBWM's annual meeting in Chicago.*



## Celebrate Safety Feb. 14-17

Campaign kits for National Safety Sabbath, Feb. 14-17, are available from the National Safety Council.

UCC President Avery D. Post says the annual interreligious campaign for safety is worth supporting.

"I like the idea of an ecumenical effort to reduce injuries and save lives," Dr. Post says. "One way to show Christian love is to be concerned about people's safety."

The 1985 campaign will emphasize child passenger safety, poison prevention and exercise safety. The free campaign kits contain posters, handouts, planning guides and other information. Spanish-language kits are available upon request.

Order kits from Religious Activities Department, National Safety Council, 444 N. Michigan, Chicago, IL 60611.

## UC Scene

Orlando Enrique Costas was inaugurated as dean of Andover Newton Theological School, Newton Centre, MA, Nov. 14. He will also serve as Judson professor of missiology at the seminary.

Bethany UCC was presented a certificate of appreciation from the Central Vermont Community Action Council for its "outstanding service to low-income people." The church was praised for general assistance to the council and for its provision of low-cost space to the Montpelier Childcare Center, the oldest in the state.

Al Carmines, minister of Rauschenbush Memorial UCC, New York City, is featured in a new off-Broadway play based on America's literary greats. Mr. Carmines portrays Walt Whitman in the production entitled "Romance Language."

## JOB OPPORTUNITY

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION seeks an executive editor for its new national lay-oriented tabloid. The position requires editing, writing, administration and oversight of layout and production. Applicants should be working journalists thoroughly familiar with the UCC at local and conference levels. Apply immediately to Beverly J. Chain, director, OC, UCC, 105 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016.

## Keeping You Posted

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## Priorities' Funding from page 1

fice for Church in Society. Also included is \$2,036,600 assigned from Neighbors in Need and Family Thank Offerings from 1981-1985 for efforts related to the peace, family life, and youth and young adult ministries priorities.

"This data was compiled as part of a study by the EC on the present policy for funding work on UCC priorities, which was established by General Synod 12," Mr. Noble explains. "The results are significant in light of GS discussions about whether priority votes affect budgets or result in significant amounts spent on priorities."

Funding for efforts around priorities by reporting instrumentalities from their regular budgets for 1984, for example, totaled \$548,452, Mr. Noble notes. "This amount is 8.1% of Our Church's Wider Mission basic support income of the four instrumentalities and 4.4% of the total annual UCC budget," he says.

"Funding by national bodies tends to increase over the life of a priority," Mr. Noble adds. "The comparable amount for all priorities in 1981 was \$149,749, 2.6% of the instrumentalities' basic support income and 1.4% of the UCC budget for that year."

An estimated \$3,032,455 will be spent by all sources on the peace priority over the four years. The instrumentalities involved have allocated \$1,367,708 from their regular bud-

gets, rising from \$123,518 in 1981 to \$350,291 in 1984. These figures represent increases from 2.1% to 5.2% of their basic support income and from 1.2% to 2.8% of the total annual UCC budget.

For the family life priority, total spending will reach \$1,682,599, with \$444,076 coming from the four instrumentalities' regular budgets. Funding in 1981 was \$26,231, .5% of their basic support income and .2% of the total UCC budget. By 1984, it had risen to \$126,693, 1.9% of basic support and 1% of the total budget.

The youth and young adult ministries priority is expected to account for \$1,250,232 over the first two years of its existence. Instrumentalities have allotted \$178,774 out of their regular budgets, with \$36,079 reported in 1983 and \$71,468 in 1984. Spending in this area rose from 1% of their basic support income and .3% of the UCC budget in 1983 to 1.8% and .6% in 1984.

The 18 conferences will spend an estimated \$525,708 for youth and young adult ministries, \$194,687 for family life and \$179,584 for peace from their regular budgets from 1981-1985. In addition, both conferences and instrumentalities have allocated priority money from invested funds and other sources.

SEND NEWS ideas and queries to KEEPING YOU POSTED, Office of Communication, UCC, 105 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016.

## Executive Council Adopts a 1985 Annual Budget

The Executive Council adopted a 1985 budget for national church bodies of \$13,000,000, up from \$12,602,290 in 1984.

	1984 Revised Budget	1985 Annual Budget
The Budget of the General Synod	\$ 1,009,792	\$ 1,030,400
Committee on Pluralism	3,920	4,000
Coordinating Center for Women	134,162	136,900
Affirmative Action	61,838	63,100
UCC-Disciples Covenant	18,522	18,900
Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries	11,760	12,000
Pacific and Asian-American Ministries	18,522	18,900
Hispanic Council	18,522	18,900
General Synod Meeting	184,436	188,200
Contributions	125,440	128,000
UC Board for World Ministries	2,850,036	2,908,200
UC Board for Homeland Ministries	2,582,986	2,635,700
Pension Boards	900,404	1,059,300
Office for Church in Society	583,688	595,600
Office for Church Life and Leadership	1,024,884	1,045,800
Stewardship Council	1,093,680	1,116,000
Commission on Development	127,400	130,000
Office of Communication	583,394	595,300
KEEPING YOU POSTED	54,194	55,300
Commission for Racial Justice	906,402	924,900
Interim Internal Communications (A.D.)	238,728	243,600
	<u>\$12,532,710</u>	<u>\$12,929,000</u>
Reserve for Contingencies	69,580	71,000
TOTAL	<u>\$12,602,290</u>	<u>\$13,000,000</u>



# 1984 Hunger Action Grants Total \$75,000; 247 Programs Receive Over \$838,000 in Eight Years

Grants totaling \$75,000 were made this winter to 29 local projects in 21 states and Washington, DC from the UCC's Hunger Action Fund.

Approved by the board of directors of UCC Board for World Ministries, the grants go to programs attempting to tackle the root causes of hunger. The fund is intended to complement relief and development efforts provided overseas through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering and direct services offered locally by UCC congregations, explains UCC world hunger action coordinator Neill Richards.

Expressing concern that both Hunger Action Fund and OGHs contributions were down in 1983, Mr. Richards urges UCC members "not to turn our backs on the poor and hungry, ignoring the demands of our faith." The religious community "has made and is making a difference," he asserts, "through modeling development and organizing programs, by moral persuasion of legislators, by effective work on corporate responsibility and through effective and appropriate relief assistance."

## Family Farm Is Emphasized

With the crisis in rural America continuing to escalate, efforts to help family farmers got special attention this year, receiving a total of \$25,000.

Specifically, \$5,000 was given to the Farm Crisis Project of Rural America, based in Des Moines. Grants of \$4,000 each went to the Natural Resources Policy Project of the Western Organization of Resource Councils, Montrose, CO; to the Land Stewardship Project, St. Paul, MN, and to the Family Farm Policy Project, Billings, MT.

Receiving \$3,000 were the Family Farm Preservation Project, Minneapolis, and OURS Delaco Association, Delhi, NY. The Farm Survival Project, Pittsboro, NC, got \$2,000.

## Voter Effort Gets Large Grant

Along with Rural America, the largest grant of \$5,000 was given to the hunger program of the Churches' Committee for Voter Registration/Education, Washington, DC. A proposal to extend the hunger-justice-peace network of the Hawaii Conference, Honolulu, was allotted \$3,500, and the work of Florida IMPACT's Hunger Research and Action Project, Tallahassee, was supported with \$3,000.

Grants of \$2,500 each went to Guadalupanos United for Advancement and Development, Guadalupe, AZ; Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Washington, DC; Kentucky Task Force on Hunger, Lexington; Poor and Oppressed Women's Educational Resources,

Roxbury, MA; Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Toledo; the Citizen Empowerment/Church Involvement project of VOICE, Palmerton, PA; the hunger-peace network of the Washington-North Idaho Conference, Seattle; Women and Employment's Job Advocacy Project, Charleston, WV, and the Unemployed Discount and Economic Dislocation Project of the Wisconsin Action Coalition, Milwaukee.

Receiving \$2,000 grants were a pilot project on rural nutrition education in Cecil County, MD, run through Union Hospital, Elkton; the Fair Employment Project, Lumberton, NC, and a self-help and assistance program of the Martin Luther King Ecumenical Center, Tacoma, WA.

Allocated \$1,500 each were Arizona WHEAT, Phoenix; Neighborhood Economic Development Support Project of the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington, DC; Illinois Ecumenical Action Program on World Hunger, Springfield; New Jersey IMPACT, Trenton; Buffalo Area Metropolitan Ministries, NY, and Native American work by West Central Oklahoma Community Organizations, Clinton. Burnside Community Council, Portland, OR, was given \$1,000.

In addition, \$49,500 was given in 1984 to support ecumenical hunger and justice programs through which the UCC works. Interfaith Action for Economic Justice received \$30,000, and the National Council of Churches' Working Group on Domestic Hunger and Poverty got \$12,000. Grants of \$2,500 were allocated to national IMPACT, Bread for the World and the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility.

## 8-Year Income Approaches \$1.5 Million

In a review of Hunger Action Fund contributions made for eight years ending in 1983, Mr. Richards reports total income of \$1,484,637 and total grants of \$838,470 made to 247 programs. Average yearly income was \$185,578, he says, while grant totals averaged \$104,809 annually.

Grants ranged in size from \$500 to \$10,000, averaging at \$2,777. Reflecting a recommendation by the World Hunger Working Group several years ago to put more money "that would make a difference" into less projects, the largest number of 34 grants was made in 1977 shortly after the fund began and the smallest number of 18 was made in 1983.

The top conference for giving to the Hunger Action Fund was Massachusetts, with a total of \$114,177 over the eight years. Southern California was second, with \$107,427, and Ohio third, with \$88,598. Missouri gave

\$88,391 and Pennsylvania Northeast \$78,797.

Receiving the greatest amount of funds for projects it contains was the Southeast Conference, with 14 grants totaling \$39,580. Central Atlantic came next, with nine grants accounting for \$25,000, followed by Florida, seven grants reaching \$24,000; Northern California, nine grants totaling \$23,900, and Illinois, eight grants accounting for \$23,340.

The main characteristics a project must exhibit to be funded, explains Mr. Richards, are an emphasis on dealing with the underlying causes of hunger and methods which help poor people to work on their own problems.

The World Hunger Working Group also evaluates projects on their effectiveness, the support they receive and involvement they have with UCC conferences, the opinions people doing hunger work have of them, the assistance they give to minorities and others subject to discrimination, their geographical location in terms of UCC membership and whether the money given will help attract additional funds, he adds.

## Hunger Network Reaches All Conferences

The hunger network has members in every UCC conference, and organizers are now in place in 36 of the 39, Mr. Richards notes.

Congressional district contacts cover 165 districts out of 402 with UCC churches, although some have only one congregation in them. Conferences with contacts for all Congressional districts with UCC churches include Connecticut, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Central, South Dakota and Vermont.

There are 600 local church contacts in the network and 6,000 individual members, Mr. Richards says. UCC members wishing to join the network should contact UCC Hunger Action Office, 475 Riverside Dr., 16 Floor, New York, NY 10115.



*The Commission for Racial Justice's Benjamin F. Chavis (L) and Charles E. Cobb (R) picket outside South African consulate before allowing themselves to be arrested in protest against apartheid in South Africa. (Sign reads: Reagan, Get out of South Africa NOW!!)*



The blue ribbon committee was established at the request of UCBHM corporate members in 1982 for an analysis on the future of church-related higher education, given general trends of increased college costs, possible declines in enrollment and financial difficulties of paying tuition of middle- and lower-income students. At UCBHM's annual meeting, the divisional committee received the report and instructed staff to explore the feasibility of implementing the committee's ideas.

The report suggests that a national network of "friends of education" be established among UCC congregations to write letters, make phone calls, visit legislators and otherwise try to influence Federal and state legislation affecting colleges and college students.

Such a network would bring something new and needed to the UCC, Mr. McMillan believes. He maintains that UCC bodies do not consistently advocate to affect public policies on higher education.

Public policy advocacy will be especially important during the coming four years of the Reagan Administration, Mr. McMillan claims, because Federal education funds will have to be reauthorized. He says President Reagan has attempted in the past to cut certain types of Federal support for higher education. "I hope we'll be able to communicate the importance of that reauthorization bill to the members of the UCC," Mr. McMillan says, noting that it will affect not only the UCC's related colleges but also low- and lower-middle-income students who seek financial aid.

Students needing financial aid might also stand to benefit from the national revolving student loan fund suggested by the blue ribbon committee. The fund would be intended particularly to serve low- and lower-middle-income students, with first priority given to UCC members who attend UCC-related colleges. The colleges would be encouraged to supplement the loan with a matching grant. Second priority would be given to UCC members who choose other colleges.

Also proposed was encouragement of UCC churches to establish student scholarships and consideration of a campaign to endow a scholarship and grant program for UCC students who are seminarians, minorities and/or of high ability and for overseas partner church educational institutions.

Turning to the question of support of educational institutions, the committee reaffirmed the practice of collecting names of high school juniors for follow-up by UCC-related colleges and urged covenantal relationships and a zoning pattern for support among conferences and colleges. Assistance by UCC bodies in faculty development at related colleges, especially regarding employment for more minorities and



*Pastor William G. Chrystal (kneeling) and members of Trinity UCC, Adamstown, MD, stand on church land that they cultivated to feed the hungry. Instead of sticking to their original plan to use the lot for parking, the 60-member congregation grew 3,000 pounds of corn and 80 bushels of potatoes which went to food banks and soup kitchens in Frederick County and Washington, DC.*

## Child Sponsorships Are Available Through UCBWM

UC Board for World Ministries has a way for people to extend help to needy children abroad.

Through arrangements with certain agencies overseas, UCBWM's division of world service can match U.S. sponsors with needy children in Asia and Africa and sometimes in Greece and Israel.

The cost of sponsoring a child, which varies from area to area, is usually \$15 to \$30 per month, says Elfriede Kohl, administrator of the division's Child Sponsorship Program. Sponsorship payments may be made monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually.

"An important part of our program is that the

women, was also recommended. In addition, the group suggested that a list be developed of outstanding UCC members who could help related schools as trustees, consultants, visiting lecturers or career counselors.

The blue ribbon committee included representatives of UCC-related colleges, UCBHM staff members, corporate members assigned to the division of higher education and American Missionary Association, and other ministers and lay people.

Single copies of the report are available without charge from Mr. McMillan, UCBHM, UCC, 132 W. 31 St., New York, NY 10001.

entire contribution received for the children is forwarded to overseas agencies," Ms. Kohl says. "Nothing is deducted for administrative costs."

Each sponsor receives a copy of the sponsored child's case history and a picture of the child. The World Board urges those children who know English to write letters to their sponsors, "and we ask that periodic reports be sent by the overseas agency if the child cannot write English," Ms. Kohl reports.

The agencies caring for the children provide education and training in job skills to help the children and their families become self-sufficient where possible.

The program currently sponsors about 800 children. Among them are motherless children in Zimbabwe, homeless children in the Philippines, Chinese refugees in Hong Kong, Tibetan refugees in India and Arab refugees in Israel.

In another program, UCBWM can match sponsors who pay \$15 per month with aged, indigent Tibetan refugees. Most of them suffer from a variety of ailments (especially tuberculosis), have no relatives and would be forced to beg if they had not been accepted by a refugee camp in India, where literacy and self-help are emphasized.

Sponsorship checks or requests for information should be directed to Child Sponsorships, UCBWM, 475 Riverside Dr., New York, NY 10115.



# COVENANT SUNDAY

## JANUARY 20, 1985



Covenant Sunday was launched in January, 1982 as a means by which congregations in the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) might join together to affirm their mutual covenant "to work together towards embodying God's gift of oneness in Jesus Christ".

The date chosen and the theme selected for this annual event were deliberately set within the wider Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (celebrated every year on January 18-25) in order to underscore the linkage between our Disciples-UCC Covenant and the unity we seek with all Christians and all churches.

Each year special worship resources have been prepared and sent to every congregation in both churches in hope that all members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ would be joining together on that Sunday in common prayers and hymns and litanies of praise. The request is made that, whenever possible, UCC and Disciples congregations come together

*Continued next page*

### *From death to life with Christ*

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Today the riches of God's grace are shown to us:

Men: God gives us Life;

Women: God raises us from death to new life.

Leader: Today we rejoice in the gift of God's grace:

Men: We do not save ourselves, but God saves us.

Women: We do not reconcile ourselves, but Christ reconciles us.

Unison: For we are members of one household as we come to worship God.

#### OPENING HYMN "Come, Let us Use the Grace Divine"

Text: Charles Wesley, from Covenant Renewal Service  
Tune: Azman C.M. ("O for a Thousand Tongues"), or other C.M.

Come, let us use the grace divine,  
And all, with one accord,  
In a perpetual covenant join  
ourselves to Christ the Lord:

Give up ourselves, through Jesus' power,  
His name to glorify;  
And promise, in this sacred hour,  
for God to live and die.

The covenant we this moment make  
Be ever kept in mind:  
We will no more our God forsake,  
Or cast God's words behind.

To each the covenant blood apply,  
Which takes our sins away:  
And register our names on high,  
And keep us to that day.

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 2:4-7



# WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

on that Sunday in common prayers and hymns and litanies of praise. The request is made that, whenever possible, UCC and Disciples congregations come together in their communities for joint services of worship to highlight God's call to reconciliation within the household of the church.

*These worship resources were developed by the Rev. Linda McKiernan-Allen, pastor of the First Christian Church, Remington, Indiana.*

## A LITANY OF PRAISE: "The Right Hand of God"

(adapted from a hymn composed for the 1973 Inaugural Assembly of the Caribbean Conference of Churches in Jamaica)

Leader: The right hand of God is writing in our land,  
Writing with power and with love.

People: Our conflicts and our fears, our triumphs and  
our tears; Are destroyed by the right hand of  
God.

Leader: The right hand of God is striking in our land,  
Striking out in envy, hate and greed.

People: Our selfishness and lust, our pride and deeds  
unjust

Are destroyed by the right hand of God.

Leader: The right hand of God is lifting in our land,  
Lifting the fallen one by one.

People: Each one is known by name,  
And rescued now from shame,  
By the lifting of the right hand of God.

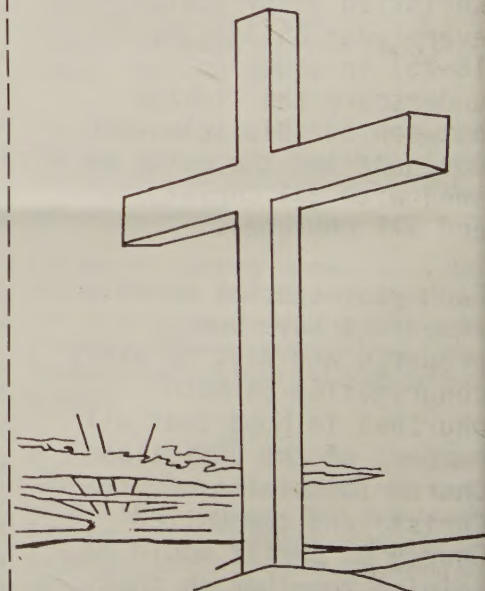
All: The right hand of God is healing in our land,  
Healing broken bodies, minds and souls.  
So wondrous is its touch,  
With love that means so much,  
When we're healed by the right hand of God.

[Where a joint Disciples-UCC worship is planned, it is suggested that as a response to the reading of the "litany of praise", all members and ministers might extend "the right hand of Christian fellowship" as a sign of peace and affirmation of our covenant before God.]

## SENDING FORTH

(adapted from the Witnesses' Address of the Last Will and Testament of the Springfield Presbytery)

So unite now with our Christian brothers and sisters of every name, in thanksgiving to God for the display of God's goodness, which we hope will terminate in the universal spread of the gospel, and the unity of the church. AMEN



*From death to life  
with Christ*





*Special training programs "Supporting the Caregiving Ministries of UCC Members"—such as the visit seen here at Buffalo Hospice, NY—will be funded by the 1985 Family Thank Offering. "Working With World Partners for Justice, Human Rights and Peace" and "Developing an Understanding of Black Men in the United States" are other projects to be financed by this year's FTO.*

## UCC Micronesian Partners Propose Council of Churches

A Micronesian Council of Churches may be created as a result of a meeting between UCC partner churches in Micronesia, the Hawaii Conference and UC Board for World Ministries.

Plans for training Micronesian pastors and lay leaders also were laid during the three-way consultation, held on the island of Kosrae there this fall.

The idea of a Micronesian Council of Churches emerged as a way to deal with a variety of problems raised at the meeting, ranging from how to deal with other churches and sects (such as Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses) to how to distribute scholarship funds.

The Hawaii Conference and UCBWM have been active in mission and ministry to Micronesia for more than a century. The three-way consultations have been held every three years or so since 1971.

Myles H. Walburn, UCBWM treasurer and World Board representative at the meeting, notes that the need for leadership training is particularly urgent in the churches of Micronesia. There will be many social changes in the next decade or two, he predicts, and some are already evident.

# Increased Contacts With U.S.S.R. Urged

Building on a record number of UCC travelers to Russia and East Europe, the Office for Church in Society and UC Board for World Ministries recently held a consultation in New York to share experiences and map out future efforts to improve East-West relations.

"In order for there to be peace, there must be reconciliation," explains Jay Lintner, OCIS associate for church empowerment, who has made two trips, including a sabbatical, to the Soviet Union. "Unfortunately," he continues, "there is great ignorance in the U.S. about Russian history and culture, and, in turn, many Soviet citizens have a distorted picture of American life."

Mr. Lintner and Kenneth Ziebell, UCBWM secretary for East-West relations, cite a number of myths held by the two countries: The U.S. believes that the Russians will launch a sudden nuclear strike if they perceive American defenses are down and that they are out to conquer Europe, on the one hand, and the Russians believe that the West is decadent, unsafe, unfair to its poor which it keeps unemployed and repressed and that Western arms-makers are the driving force in the arms race in their search for profits, on the other.

Noting that the Florida and Northern California Conferences have organized trips to the U.S.S.R. and that other UCC people have been members of National Council of Churches, Bridges for Peace, Fellowship of Reconciliation and UCBWM tours, Mr. Lintner stresses the importance of visitors to the Soviet Union being aware of differences between American and Russian peace groups. Western peace groups, he notes, are organized to put pressure on their Government to take peace initiatives, while socialist countries do

not tolerate such pressure. He cautions, however, that the Soviet Peace Committee should not be dismissed too quickly.

"Before cursing them for what they cannot do, it is helpful to keep in mind what they can do," he says. In Mr. Lintner's view, the Peace Committee's principal accomplishment is to build up in the Russian people's minds a will for peace by interpreting the Nuclear Freeze in the Soviet Union and educating the public on what it can do. "Since Soviet officials from Chairman Chernenko on down have endorsed the freeze, the various nuances to freeze proposals are fair game for open discussion," he reasons.

The consultation agreed that increased East-West dialogue is challenged by a number of issues:

- \*The arms race seems to be out of control.
- \*Peace and justice are interrelated and linked to the issue of intervention to protect U.S. and Soviet interests.
- \*There is a desire in both nations for some sort of world order.
- \*Despite false impressions in the way the two countries view each other, there is a yearning for reconciliation.

The consultation would like to increase UCC-U.S.S.R. dialogue and is considering a conference leaders' trip to Russia and a resolution to General Synod encouraging relationships with the East bloc. Mr. Lintner also urged all tour participants to challenge their local media when they perceive distortions in news coverage of the Soviet Union.

"The suicide rate among youth is up dramatically," Mr. Walburn says. "Sect groups are moving in, and families are being divided over new teachings. Throughout the islands, people are migrating to the cities for better-paid government jobs. Traditional values are losing their power."

In general, he observes, "church leaders are ill-equipped to cope with rapid social change. A great many ordained ministers lack even a high school education. Seminary-trained ministers are extremely rare. Since an increasing number of secular professionals are well-trained, especially in government service, church leaders are sometimes seen as having nothing to contribute. Few of the most able young people are attracted to the ministry."

The idea of a Micronesian Council of Churches came from the Micronesian delegates themselves, some of whom expressed dissatisfactions during the consultation.

"There was resentment expressed over the fact

that most missionaries have been withdrawn during the past decade and that there has been a reduced number of visits by UCBWM personnel," Mr. Walburn reports.

The delegates to the consultation endorsed the Micronesian Council of Churches idea. Each of the five Micronesian churches will appoint two people to serve on a planning committee, to be convened by the Hawaii Conference. The group will draft a proposal to be considered by the next three-way consultation, scheduled for 1985.

The consultation also decided to prepare materials to help Micronesian churches cope with the problem of sect groups and approved a draft agreement between UCBWM and the Hawaii Conference for a three-year trial. The Hawaii Conference will be the primary point of contact between the churches of Micronesia and the UCC while UCBWM continues responsibilities for missionary support, inter-church advocacy efforts, ecumenical relationships and interpretation.



## GENERAL SYNOD 15:

# Just Peace Paper Is Ready for Comments

Approval of the direction of *A Just Peace*, a draft working paper developed by the UCC Peace Theology Development Team, was voted by the directorate of the Office for Church in Society at its recent meeting in New York City.

The document, the result of two years of consultations, sets forth the theological basis, policy and structure for considering the development of the UCC into a peacemaking church. It is now available for comments to aid in its final revision this month, after which it will be presented this summer to General Synod 15.

"Discussing *A Just Peace* helped our directors see the linkage between peace and justice through the eyes of the poor," remarks Ann Marie Coleman, Ann Arbor, MI, OCIS chairperson. This vision of just peace, the document says, is based on God's revelation in the Bible, in church tradition and in struggles for liberation and justice.

While affirming the right of nations to defend themselves if attacked, the document views the growth of the technology of violence as overwhelming any possibility of moral good in resolving international conflict. Therefore, *A Just Peace* expresses its opposition to all war.

The paper does not call for unilateral disarmament, but does urge a number of policies involving unilateral initiatives. If passed by GS 15, its concepts would also put delegates on record as opposing any threat to use nuclear or biochemical weapons and any doctrine of deterrence based on their use.

The document develops a positive view of the state as an instrument for achieving social justice and supporting human welfare.

Another position *A Just Peace* takes is that privilege, oppression and violence are structural to economic and social systems. As a result, "victims of these institutions are often left with an ethical choice between more or less injustice and more or less violence," explains Jay Lintner, UCC peace priority coordinator and a member of the Peace Theology Development Team.

"We ask members to examine their faith and consider extraordinary witness," he reports. "What is the Christian response to carrying out orders to use nuclear or biological weapons or to undertaking military service? Should Christians participate in war tax resistance and civil disobedience?"

"If the final document is passed by Synod, the UCC will have to seriously examine its structure and funding to answer the call to be a justice-seeking and peacemaking church," Ms. Coleman comments.

Copies of *A Just Peace* may be ordered for \$3 from Mr. Lintner, OCIS, UCC, 105 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016.

## INS Prolonged Detention Opposed

In other action, the OCIS directorate appealed to President Reagan and Congress to take immediate action to halt expansion of the Immigration and Naturalization Service detention system.

"Because of the biblical imperative to protect the rights of the stranger and sojourner, the church must challenge the current U.S. policy of prolonged detention of asylum-seekers," charged Yvonne V. Delk, OCIS executive director.

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supportive of the apartheid system are unwilling to change policies.

## Stowe Praises UCBWM in Farewell

The 175th annual meeting was the final one for Dr. Stowe as chief executive. In a farewell state of the mission address, he lauded the worldwide missionary enterprise in planting Christianity in all of the world's 223 nations and noted that the churches founded by the World Board's missionaries had never been "satellites of a mission board forever circling in prescribed theological and ecclesiastical orbits." Rather, he said, they are "working out a life of their own," and he predicted a "growing partnership in the missionary struggle for Christian unity, human community, liberation and improved standard of living."

In other business, corporate members appealed to President Reagan and Congress for reforms in the treatment of those seeking asylum from Central America and the Caribbean, particularly regarding the practice of using isolated detention centers as a deterrent to those entering the U.S.

The board of directors terminated UCBWM's participation in the Nestle boycott and adopted a 1985 budget of \$10,194,716. They also announced the search for a new regional secretary for Africa with Mar. 15 as deadline for applications. They should be sent to the executive vice president, UCBWM, 475 Riverside Dr., New York, NY 10115.

The World Board decided to celebrate its 175th birthday over a two-year period. Churches wishing to participate can order "The Missionary Packet" with worship materials, a specially-composed hymn, poster, games, stories and ideas for special projects. Ready now is a free brief history of UCBWM written by Dr. Stowe. Other materials, now being developed, include videotapes, radio and TV spots, and a filmstrip. For availability, write to Dalton Smith at the above address.

Beverly J. Chain



Paul L. Kittlaus, former director of OCIS' Washington office, is greeted by Patricia E. deJong (L), minister of education for Christian discipleship at Riverside Church, and OCIS chair Ann Marie Coleman (R) at a reception held in his honor during the OCIS directorate meeting.

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